



• INFO memo - July 3, 2003

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Summer Activities Keep Parks Personnel Busy

One of the first things Scott Esmond did when he took the position of Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Broken Arrow was to create a management team. Although much of their work is behind the scenes, those three team leaders are never more appreciated than this time of year when spring gives way to summer.

Appointed when Esmond came to Broken Arrow from Tulsa three years ago were Phil Hink, Manager of Maintenance Division; Paul Sanco, Manager of Recreation Division; and David Blue, Coordinator of Special Events. That trio keeps busy all year, but from May through September they are all MVPs for the City and its citizens.

Friday's Glory Daze will be the culmination of months of planning and several days of hard work for those three and their personnel. The summer swimming programs are well underway and running smoothly. The Tuesday Concerts in Central Park have ended another successful run. Another Rooster Days is in the history books.

But Hink, Sanco and Blue can't take any sighs of relief. Not yet. While getting ready for Glory Daze, they have also been taking care of baseball fields that are being used for season-ending tournaments and will soon begin hosting four national tournaments.

This was the first year for full use of the new soccer fields on the west side of the Indian Springs Sports Complex. Another national girls fastpitch softball tournament is coming to Arrowhead Park this month. A new spray pool opened at Rockwood West Park. A contractor is working on getting the new Country Aire swimming pool finished. Esmond is working with City engineers on getting plans finalized for the new Nienhuis Park and its Youth/Community Center and Youth Football Complex.

Meanwhile, work continues on the newly opened Jackson Park, with a trail being completed and landscaping work ongoing.

Sanco reports that 848 have enrolled as of July 2 in the City's Learn to Swim program at the old Central Pool. The final two-week session is set to begin July 14. After going over evaluations turned in by parents of participants, Sanco claims this is "probably the best year since the City of Broken Arrow has conducted the program through the American Red Cross."

Open swim numbers at the Family Aquatic Center have picked up with the hotter weather. That facility will host a swimming party for girls coming to Broken Arrow for the 12-under American Fastpitch Association softball championships.

The first of the four world series baseball tournaments starts July 13 (13-year old AAA), and runs through July 20. Less than a week later (July 26) the other three tournaments begin, bringing in teams and fans from all over the world.

It's doubtful that anyone in Broken Arrow does more mowing of grass during hot weather than Hink's crews. Esmond is definitely happy to have his "team" during the Good Old Summertime!

City Offices Closed Friday

Broken Arrow's City Hall will be closed Friday, July 4, as employees enjoy the Independence Day holiday. There will be no curbside trash pickup on that day. Regular sanitation schedules will resume next week.

The Family Aquatic Center in Central Park will be open Friday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., then close early so that employees can enjoy Glory Daze or other July 4 celebrations.

Police and fire departments will be on duty and will be staffing Glory Daze. Those with emergency water or sewer problems should call 259-8400.

S.C.A.T. Puts Heat on Property Crime

Empty homes as families take vacation trips. Open garage doors. Open windows. Hot, sultry days.

For the Broken Arrow Police Department these factors add up to an increase in property crimes over the summer. In a proactive move, the BAPD has created a "Summer Crimes Action Team" (S.C.A.T.) to put some heat on the would-be criminals.

The team members will concentrate on property crimes that historically increase during the summer months, using crime analysis information from Analyst Tim Hirsch to pinpoint hot spots of activity.

Acting Chief Rick Ross reports that two criminal investigators have been moved to evening shift hours to actively follow up on leads as they develop in the field. Two School Resource Officers who are members of the Bike Unit are actively patrolling these areas as the trends occur.

The technique began in May and proved very successful, said Ross. Other Bike Unit officers, working on grants in conjunction with Uniformed Patrol Officers, have supplemented these efforts.

Ross emphasizes that citizens can do a lot to help keep property crime numbers down. “If they are going on vacation trips and their home is going to be empty, have neighbors watch for any suspicious activity. Have someone pick up your mail and newspapers. Do anything you can to make it look as though someone is in the home. And if you’re at home, keep your garage door closed and locked. Don’t hesitate to call us if you observe suspicious behavior in your neighborhood.”

Seat Belt Enforcement Cites 27 Violations

The Broken Arrow Police Department’s Seat Belt Enforcement Zone this past week south of Houston on Lynn Lane resulted in 27 citations written for failure to use proper seat restraint. There was an additional ticket written for failure to use seat restraint for a child.

Sgt. Ed Ferguson said that 35 contacts were made in just two hours – four warnings and 31 citations. Officer Tim Farlow brought out the Police Mobile Command Center to that officers could take a break from the heat.

Sales Tax Check Increases

Broken Arrow’s sales tax check from the State of Oklahoma in June was \$1,776,541 – up \$132,690 from June of the previous year.

Jay Heinrichs of the Finance Department reports that for the fiscal year Broken Arrow has received \$20,453,114 from the State, an increase of \$836,609 from the same months in the last fiscal year.

Biggest increases in sales tax revenues came from electric, gas and sanitary services (up \$113,717 from a year ago), general merchandise stores (\$85,206) and building materials, hardware, garden supplies and mobile home dealers (\$81,900).

Road Project Nears Completion

The widening of Elm Place from Florence to the South Loop took a giant step nearer completion this past week when traffic was switched to the west side and set the stage for final paving by the end of next week.

Work has also stepped up on the widening of Aspen from Jasper (131st) to the Indian Springs Sports Complex. Traffic has also been switched to the west side, and east side base is being done, along with placing of asphalt on the north side.

Public Works Director Dave Wooden reports that work is ahead of schedule on the addition to The Main Place senior center facility.